

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 EUR-12 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5200

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, UR

SUBJ: SOMALI WARNINGS TO SOVIET UNION: WAR OF NERVES?

REF: MOGADISCIO 1396

1. SIAD'S AUGUST 14 SPEECH (MOGADISCIO 1396) WARNED SOVIET UNION AND ITS SOCIALIST ALLIES AGAINST TILTING MILITARY BALANCE IN FAVOR OF ETHIOPIA AND AGAINST SOMALIA. RADIO MOGADISCIO HAS SINCE PICKED UP THE OFFICIAL LINE AND HAS REPEATED IT DAILY IN ITS DENUNCIATIONS OF SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU. RADIO MOGADISCIO COMMENTARIES ARE BEING REPEATED IN SOMALI DAILY NEWS BULLETIN (SONNA).

2. RADIO MOGADISCIO'S WARNINGS TO SOVIET UNION WERE SOMEWHAT VEILED AT FIRST AND WENT NO FURTHER THAN SIAD HIMSELF IN HIS AUGUST 14 SPEECH. FOR EXAMPLE, AUGUST 16 COMMENTARY SAID:

--QUOTE IT IS THEREFORE A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT NO AMOUNT OF HURRIEDLY SHIPPED ARMS CAN PREVENT THE INEVITABLE DISINTEGRATION OF THE ANCIENT ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE TO WHICH MENGISTU CLINS UNQUOTE.

--QUOTE THE ONLY OUTCOME OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE
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CURRENT CONFLICT BETWEEN MENGISTU AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CAN BE THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE WAR, FOR IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE OF WESTERN SOMALIA AND ERITREA, THEIR BROTHERS IN BLOOD AND THOSE WHO REGARD THEIR STRUGGLE AS JUST WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY. THIS IN TURN COULD DIVIDE THE WORLD IN THE ENSUING CONFLICT AND COULD EVEN RESULT IN A WORLDWIDE

CONFLICT. UNQUOTE.

3. AS IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT TO SOMALIA THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT BACKED DOWN PUBLICLY IN ITS SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU -- (AND THE GSDR SEEMS TO BE TAKING ITS PRIMARY CLUES FROM TASS AND IZVESTIA) -- THE RADIO MOGADISCIO COMMENTARIES HAVE BECOME MORE EXPLICIT IN THE DANGERS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU POSE FOR SOMALI-SOVIET RELATIONS.

4. IN A RADIO MOGADISCIO BROADCAST OF AUGUST 19, GSDR DECLARED ITS QUOTE DEEP CONCERN OVER THE IMPENDING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN US AND THOSE WITH WHOM WE HAVE FORMERLY ALLIED IN THE PURSUIT OF THE JUST CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND COMMON OPPOSITION TO HUMAN OPPRESSION. WE ARE SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO THE ISSUE OF THE RAMSHACKLE COLONIAL EMPIRE INHERITED FROM MENELIK AND HAILE SELASSIE BY MENGISTU WHO IS ENDEAVORING TO PERPETUATE IT THROUGH THE FALSE CLOAK OF COLONIALISM UNQUOTE. THE RADIO MOGADISCIO WARNING TO MOSCOW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY SONNA BULLETIN.

5. THE SAME BROADCAST LABELLED THE TASS REPORT IDENTIFYING SOMALI REGULAR TROOPS IN THE OGADEN AS QUOTE AN INADVERTENT (SIC) AND UNWARRANTED TRANSGRESSION OF THE RULES OF THE GAME BY FALSELY LABELING THE WAR OF LIBERATION OF WESTERN SOMALIA
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AS AN IMPERIALIST-ENGINEERED ONE. UNQUOTE.

6. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE -- EXCEPT THAT SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY DOESN'T PERMIT NAME-CALLING IN PUBLIC -- BUT RADIO MOGADISCIO'S TALK OF A QUOTE CONFRONTATION UNQUOTE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND THE SOVIET UNION GOES BEYOND THE LINE TAKEN BY SIAD.

7. SIMILARLY, THE LINE TAKEN BY GSDR OFFICIAL IN PRIVATE (MOGADISCIO 1434) ABOUT SOVIET MENACE ALSO SEEM MORE URGENT THAN A WEEK AGO. AS NEITHER SIDE SHOWS ANY SIGN OF BACKING DOWN, IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE A WAR OF NERVES IN MOGADISCIO.
LOUGHRAN

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